

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 02944 101009Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11
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R 092000Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8399
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2944

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, ES
SUBJECT: POLITICAL PART DIALOGUE WITH GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR

REF: SAN SALVADOR 2527

1. NEWLY-EMERGING DISPOSITION TOWARD POLITICAL DIALOGUE
ON PART OF GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC
PARTY (PDC) OF EL SALVADOR WAS REPORTED IN REFTEL.

2. MORE RECENTLY, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS MET WITH PRESIDENT
ROMERO AND VICE PRESIDENT ASTACIO AND PRESENTED THEM
WITH A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF CORRECTIVE MEASURES FOR THE
GOVERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE (SAN SALVADOR 2648). BUT
THEREAFTER A LONG SILENCE ENSUED AND THE CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATS BECAME VISIBLY DISTURBED THAT THE NASCENT
DIALOGUE MIGHT HAVE COME TO AN UNTIMELY END.

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3. IN TALKS WITH US, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS SUGGESTED
THAT WE DISCREETLY LET VICE PRESIDENT ASTACIO
KNOW THAT THEY WERE WAITING TO HEAR FROM HIM.
AMBASSADOR PASSED THIS MESSAGE THROUGH AN APPROPRIATE
CABINET MINISTER ON JUNE 6. FOLLOWING DAY, ON A
SOCIAL OCCASION, HE WAS AGAIN APPROACHED BY PDC
SECRETARY GENERAL REY PRENDES WITH REQUEST THAT

ANOTHERRELATED MESSAGE BE PASSED. THIS WAS DONE
ON JUNE 8. VICE PRESIDENT ASTACIO ACKNOWLEDGED BALL
WAS IN HIS COURT, ASSURED AMBASSADOR THERE WAS
NO "BARRIER" TO CONTINUATION OF DIALOGUE WITH PDC,
AND SAID WE COULD ASSURE PDC THAT MINISTER OF
PLANNING WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH THEM NEXT WEEK.

4. SIMULTANEOUSLY, ITALIAN AMBASSADOR ADRIANO
RIGHETTI IS CONTINUING HIS EFFORTS TO DEVELOP THE
SAME DIALOGUE. HE IS NOW COMMITTED TO HOST A SMALL
PRIVATE DINNER IN THIS HOME EARLY IN JULY TO BRING
TOGETHER TOP CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT LEADERSHIP WITH
PRESIDENT OF SUPREME COURT ROGELIO CHAVEZ AND SOME
OTHER AS YET UNIDENTIFIED GOES OFFICIALS.

5. MEANWHILE, TO OUR SUPRISE, WE LEARN THAT
DIALOGUE MAY BE SPREADING IN OTHER DIRECTIONS AS
WELL. DR. GUILLERMO MANUEL UNGO, SECRETARY GNEERAL
OF THE NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MNR)
RECENTLY WAS INVITED TO A 90-MINUTE PRIVATE
TALK WITH PRESIDENT ROMERO AND TELLS US THAT THE
LATTER READILY AGREED AS TO THE NECESSITY AND
DESIRABILITY OF POLITICAL DIALOGUE WITH THE OPPOSITION.
WHILE THE PRESIDENT'S CONCEPT OF DIALOGUE AND DEGREE
OF COMMITMENT THERETO LEFT SOME QUESTIONS UNANSWERED,
IT WAS VIEWED BY MNR AS ENCOURAGING THAT HE WOULD
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TAKE SUCH AN INITIATIVE.
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